

- 1       1. An apparatus for positively identifying an item, the apparatus comprising:  
2            a reader configured to read a coded identifier associated with the item;  
3            a capture module configured to capture a visual characteristic of the item; and  
4            a verification module configured to verify that the candidate item is associated with  
5       the coded identifier.
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- 7       2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an association module configured to  
8       associate the visual characteristic with a candidate item in a database.
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- 10      3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a confirmation module configured to  
11       confirm with a user that the candidate item is associated with the item.
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- 13      4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a presentation module configured to  
14       present to a user a plurality of candidate items associated with the visual characteristic of the  
15       item and allow the user to identify from the plurality of candidate items a candidate item  
16       corresponding to the item.
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- 18      5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a notification module configured to notify  
19       a user whether the coded identifier is associated with the candidate item.
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- 21      6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the database is configured to associate the visual  
22       characteristic with the candidate item and the coded identifier.
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- 24      7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a weight module configured to identify and  
25       associate the weight of the item with the weight of the candidate item.
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1       8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the visual characteristic is selected from the group  
2       consisting of color, size, shape, or texture.

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4       9. A user interface for positively identifying an item, the user interface comprising:  
5            an input module configured to read a coded identifier associated with the item and to  
6            capture a visual characteristic associated with the item;  
7            a controller in communication with the input module, the controller configured to  
8            receive the coded identifier and the visual characteristic from the input  
9            module, associate the visual characteristic with a candidate item in a  
10           database, and verify that the candidate item is associated with the coded  
11           identifier; and  
12            a confirmation module in communication with the controller, the confirmation  
13            module configured to confirm that the candidate item is associated with the  
14            item.

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16       10. The user interface of claim 9, further comprising a presentation module configured to  
17       present to a user a plurality of candidate items associated with the visual characteristic of the  
18       item and allow the user to identify from the plurality of candidate items a candidate item  
19       corresponding to the item.

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21       11. The user interface of claim 9, further comprising a notification module configured to  
22       notify a user whether the candidate item is associated with the coded identifier of the item.

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24       12. The user interface of claim 9, wherein the input module identifies and associates the  
25       weight of the item with the weight of the candidate item.

- 1 13. A system for positively identifying an item, the system comprising:
- 2       a checkout station comprising a reader configured to read a coded identifier of the
- 3           item and a capture module configured to capture a visual characteristic of the
- 4           item; and
- 5       a server in communication with the checkout station, the server comprising an
- 6           association module configured to associate the visual characteristic with a
- 7           candidate item in a database, and a verification module configured to verify
- 8           that the candidate item is associated with the coded identifier.
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- 10 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the server is remote in relation to the checkout station.
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- 12 15. The system of claim 13, wherein the server communicates with a plurality of checkout
- 13       stations.
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- 15 16. A method for positively identifying an item, the method comprising:
- 16       reading a coded identifier associated with the item;
- 17       capturing a visual characteristic of the item;
- 18       associating the visual characteristic with a candidate item in a database; and
- 19       verifying that the candidate item is associated with the coded identifier.
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- 21 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising confirming with a user that the candidate
- 22       item is associated with the item.
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- 24 18. The method of claim 16, further comprising presenting to a user a plurality of candidate
- 25       items associated with the visual characteristic of the item and allowing the user to identify
- 26       from the plurality of candidate items a candidate item corresponding with the item.
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- 1        19. The method of claim 16, further comprising notifying a user whether the coded
- 2        identifier is associated with the candidate item.
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- 4        20. The method of claim 16, wherein the database is configured to associate the visual
- 5        characteristic with the candidate item and the coded identifier.
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- 7        21. The method of claim 16, further comprising generating a visual signature from the
- 8        visual characteristic.
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- 10       22. The method of claim 16, further comprising identifying and associating the weight of
- 11       the item with the weight of the candidate item.
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- 13       23. The method of claim 16, wherein the visual characteristic is selected from the group
- 14       consisting of color, size, shape, or texture.
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- 16       24. An apparatus for positively identifying an item, the apparatus comprising:
  - 17        means for reading a coded identifier associated with the item;
  - 18        means for capturing a visual characteristic of the item;
  - 19        means for associating the visual characteristic with a candidate item in a database;
- 20       and
  - 21        means for verifying that the candidate item is associated with the coded identifier.
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- 23       25. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising means for confirming with a user that the
- 24       candidate item is associated with the item.
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- 26       26. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising means for notifying a user whether the
- 27       coded identifier is associated with the candidate item.

- 1       27. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a  
2       processor and embodying one or more instructions executable by a processor to perform a  
3       method for positively identifying an item, the method comprising:  
4               reading a coded identifier associated with an item;  
5               capturing a visual characteristic of the item;  
6               associating the visual characteristic with a candidate item in a database; and  
7               verifying that the candidate item is associated with the coded identifier.  
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9       28. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises  
10      confirming with a user that the candidate item is associated with the item.  
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12     29. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises  
13      presenting to a user a plurality of candidate items associated with the visual characteristic of  
14      the item and allowing the user to identify from the plurality of candidate items a candidate  
15      item corresponding with the item.  
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17     30. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises notifying  
18      a user whether the coded identifier is associated with the candidate item.  
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